

1 - 7. (canceled)

8. (new) A method of applying a Niobium Oxide coating as an anti-corrosive, the method comprising the steps of:

pre-cleaning a metallic surface that will receive the Niobium Oxide coating;  
blasting, with abrasive, to attain a roughness necessary for coating anchoring;  
pre-heating the metallic surface; and  
applying the coating by thermal aspersión.

9. (new) The method according to claim 8, wherein the Niobium Oxide coating has the following characteristics:

melting point: 1512 °C;  
specific gravity: 4.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  
niobium oxide %: 99.4;  
sulphur (ppm): less than 10;  
iron (ppm): up to 229;  
lead (ppm): less than 1; and  
granulometry: 100 - 400 # Tyler mesh size.

10. (new) The method according to claim 8, including the step of:

applying a 40 Al - 60 Nb agglomerate as a pre-layer promoter of adherence between the metallic substrate and the Niobium Oxide layer.

11. (new) The method according to claim 8, wherein parameters for the coating application, by thermal aspersion, are:

oxygen pressure: from 2.0 up to 4.0 kg/cm<sup>3</sup>;

acetylene pressure: from 0.5 up to 1.0 kg/cm<sup>3</sup>; and

coating deposition rate: from 5 up to 15.